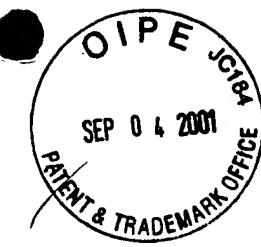


IN THE CLAIMS:



Please cancel claims 5 and 10 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 8 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An article assembly comprising:

a) an article having a receivable end.

and

b) a stand in the shape of first and second feet,

each of said first and second feet being elongated

to define a toe end and together a common heel end,

said first and second feet being joined together and

positioned together to form a continuous bottom

supporting surface, said heel end of each of said

first and second feet being positioned together

to form a single heel portion, said single heel

portion including a recess extending through a

topside thereof and towards a sole thereof

for selectively receiving said receivable end

of said article therein, thereby retaining said

article when said stand is placed on a horizontal

surface, said first and second feet each including

a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting

one another in a common [plain] plane.

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5. An article assembly comprising:

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A stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of
said first and second feet being elongated to define a
toe end and together a common heel end, said first and
second feet being joined together and positioned together
to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel
end of each of said first and second feet being positioned
together to form a single heel portion, said single heel
portion including a recess extending through a topside
thereof and towards a sole thereof, said first and second
feet including a side surface, said side surfaces
intersecting one another in a common plane.

7. The article assembly as claimed in claim *1*, wherein said
b6 base includes a recess extending therethrough and in
alignment with said recess in said stand.

6. (Amended) An article assembly comprising:

A stand in the shape of first and second feet, each of said first and second feet being elongated to define a toe end and together a common heel end, said first and second feet being joined together and positioned together to form a continuous bottom supporting surface, said heel end of each of said first and second feet being positioned together to form a single heel portion, said single heel portion including a recess extending through a topside thereof and towards a sole thereof, said first and second feet including a side surface, said side surfaces intersecting one another in a common [plain] plane.

8. (Amended) The article assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein said base includes a recess extending therethrough and in alignment with said recess in said stand.